CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5   1. A vehicle legal compliance system for reporting a compliance status of a vehicle, the vehicle legal compliance system comprising:

a central computer having a vehicle database, the vehicle database being adapted for storing a unique vehicle identifier associated with the vehicle, and the compliance status of the vehicle;

10   a central processor for converting the unique vehicle identifier and the compliance status into a status indicator signal;

a central transmitter/receiver operably connected to the central computer for transmitting the status indicator signal; and

a legal compliance indicator having a vehicle transmitter/receiver that is operably

15   attached to a microprocessor, which is operably attached to a status indicator, such that the vehicle transmitter/receiver receives the status indicator signal, and the microprocessor decodes the status indicator signal for operably controlling the status indicator,

the legal compliance indicator being adapted to be operably attached to the vehicle for

20   displaying the status indicator, which is operably controlled by the status indicator signal.

2. The vehicle legal compliance system of claim 1 further comprising:

   an external computer operably connected to a computer network;

   a means for operably connecting the central computer to the computer network; and

   a means for importing data from the external computer to the central computer.

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3. The vehicle legal compliance system of claim 2 wherein the external computer is a DMV computer.

4. The vehicle legal compliance system of claim 2 wherein the external computer is an

10   insurance company computer.

5. The vehicle legal compliance system of claim 2 wherein the external computer is a law enforcement computer.

15   6. The vehicle legal compliance system of claim 1 wherein the microprocessor of the legal compliance indicator is operably attached to a GPS.

7. The vehicle legal compliance system of claim 1 wherein the vehicle database includes a DMV status.

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8. The vehicle legal compliance system of claim 1 wherein the vehicle database includes an insurance status.

9. The vehicle legal compliance system of claim 1 wherein the vehicle database includes a theft status.

10. The vehicle legal compliance system of claim 1 wherein the status indicator includes a first red/green LED and a second red/green LED.

11. The vehicle legal compliance system of claim 10 wherein the status indicator operates as follows:

when the compliance status of the vehicle is compliant, both the first and second red/green LEDs are green;

when the compliance status of the vehicle is non-compliant, both the first and second red/green LEDs are red; and

when the compliance status of the vehicle is stolen, both the first and second red/green LEDs are flashing red.

12. The method of Claim 1 wherein the status indicator includes a green LED and a red LED.

13. The vehicle legal compliance system of Claim 12 wherein the status indicator operates as follows:

5 when the compliance status of the vehicle is compliant, the green LED is illuminated and the red LED is not illuminated; and

when the compliance status of the vehicle is non-compliant, the red LED is illuminated and the green LED is not illuminated.

14. A method for monitoring a compliance status of a vehicle, the method comprising the steps of:

a) providing a vehicle legal compliance system having

a central computer having a vehicle database and a central transmitter/receiver; and

a legal compliance indicator having a central processor, a memory, and a status indicator, the status indicator being adapted to be operably controlled by a status indicator control code;

b) storing a unique vehicle identifier in the memory of the legal compliance indicator;

c) attaching the legal compliance indicator to the vehicle for visually displaying the status indicator;

d) storing a unique vehicle identifier associated with the vehicle, and the compliance status of the vehicle, in the vehicle database;

e) creating a status indicator control code based upon the compliance status;

f) transmitting a status indicator signal that includes the unique vehicle identifier and the status indicator control code;

g) receiving the status indicator signal at the legal compliance indicator, and decoding the status indicator signal;

h) checking the unique vehicle identifier contained in the status indicator signal with the unique vehicle identifier stored in the memory of the legal compliance indicator; and

i) using the status indicator control code to operably control the status indicator if the unique vehicle identifier in the status indicator signal matches the unique vehicle identifier in the memory.

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15. The method of Claim 14 wherein the status indicator includes a first red/green LED and a second red/green LED.

16. The method of Claim 15 wherein the status indicator control code operates as follows:

when the compliance status of the vehicle is compliant, both the first and second red/green LEDs are green;

when the compliance status of the vehicle is non-compliant, both the first and second red/green LEDs are red; and

when the compliance status of the vehicle is stolen, both the first and second red/green LEDs are flashing red.

17. The method of Claim 14 wherein the status indicator includes a green LED and a red LED.

18. The method of Claim 17 wherein the status indicator control code operates as follows:

when the compliance status of the vehicle is compliant, the green LED is illuminated and the red LED is not illuminated; and

when the compliance status of the vehicle is non-compliant, the red LED is illuminated and the green LED is not illuminated.

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19. A method for monitoring a compliance status of a vehicle, the method comprising the steps of:

   a) providing a vehicle legal compliance system having

   a central computer having a vehicle database and a central transmitter/receiver; and

   a legal compliance indicator having a central processor, a memory with a unique vehicle identifier, and a status indicator, the status indicator being adapted to be operably controlled by a status indicator control code;

   b) attaching the legal compliance indicator to the vehicle for visually displaying the status indicator;

   c) storing a unique vehicle identifier associated with the vehicle, and the compliance status of the vehicle, in the vehicle database;

   d) creating a status indicator control code based upon the compliance status;

   e) transmitting a status indicator signal that includes the unique vehicle identifier and the status indicator control code;

   f) receiving the status indicator signal at the legal compliance indicator, and decoding the status indicator signal;

   g) checking the unique vehicle identifier contained in the status indicator signal with the unique vehicle identifier stored in the memory of the legal compliance indicator;

   h) using the status indicator control code to operably control the status indicator if the unique vehicle identifier in the status indicator signal matches the unique vehicle identifier in the memory; and

   i) interrogating the legal compliance indicator with a remote trigger, thereby causing the legal compliance indicator to visually display the compliance status.

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20. The method of Claim 19 wherein the remote trigger is a radar gun.